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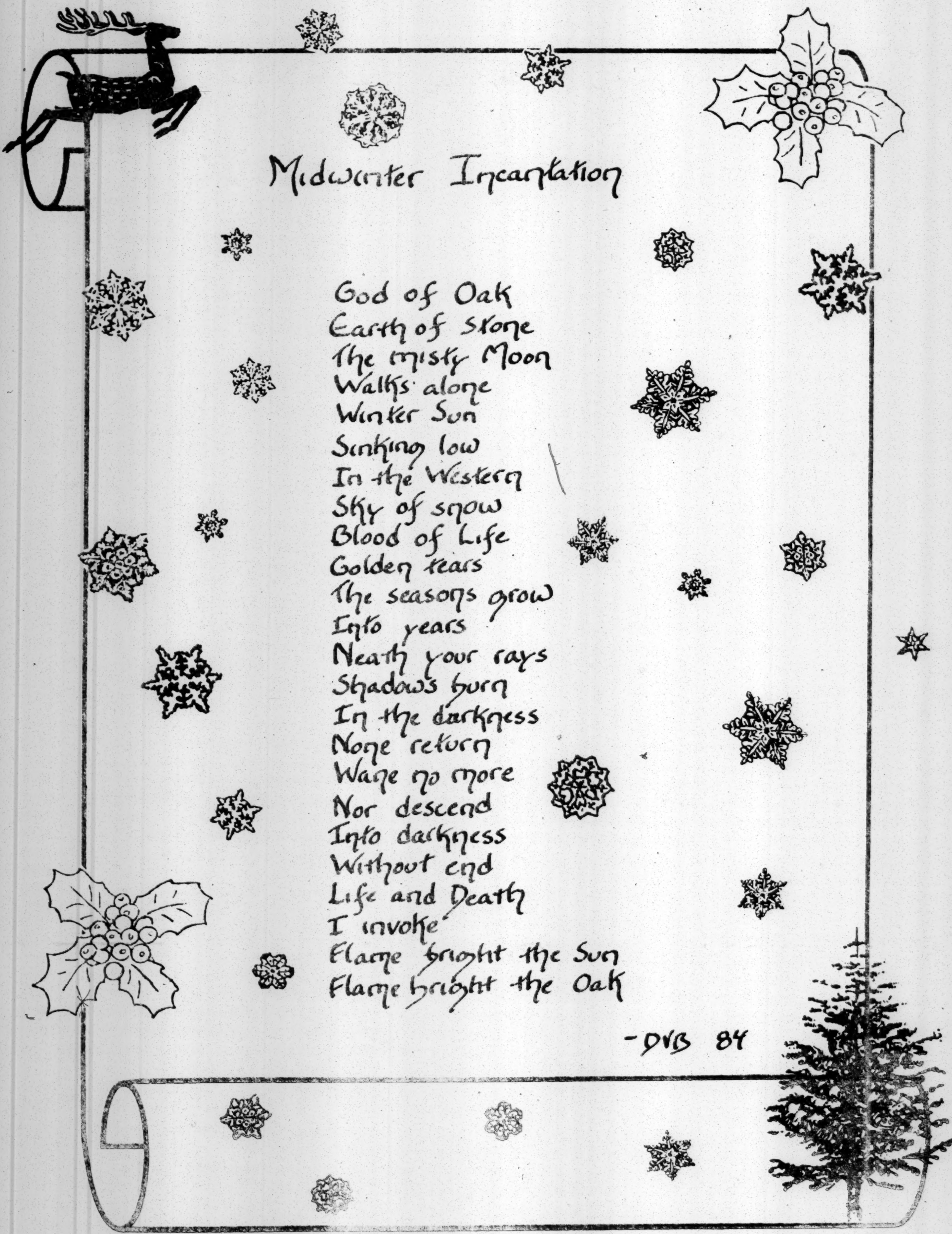
WICCA SEMINARY NEWS & VIEWS



ISSUE B-84

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061

WINTER SOLSTICE/YULE



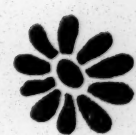
Midwinter Incantation

God of Oak
Earth of Stone
The misty Moon
Walks alone
Winter Sun
Sinking low
In the Western
Sky of snow
Blood of Life
Golden tears
The seasons grow
Into years
Nearth your rays
Shadows burn
In the darkness
None return
Wage no more
Nor descend
Into darkness
Without end
Life and Death
I invoke
Flame bright the Sun
Flame bright the Oak

-DVB 84



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Believe It ~ Why Not?

by Stone



Wooden mask of Cernunos
found in Oklahoma

The sailors with Columbus were not the first Europeans to reach America. No indeed! Many archaeologists now look at all of the evidence and see that Egyptians, Phoenicians and especially Celts were here 3000 years ago—in small exploration parties and permanent colonies that kept up trade with the homeland for centuries till they finally merged into the Indian peoples. I have chosen a few

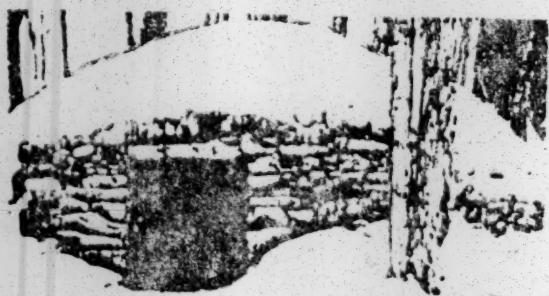


Stone torso of Danu
found in Vermont

bits of evidence here but there are many more—from the Zuni language of the southwest U.S. (which is descended from Lybian) to the Aztec tales of white men from the east. If you want to read more I recommend the book *America B.C.* by Barry Fell, Simon & Schuster 1976.

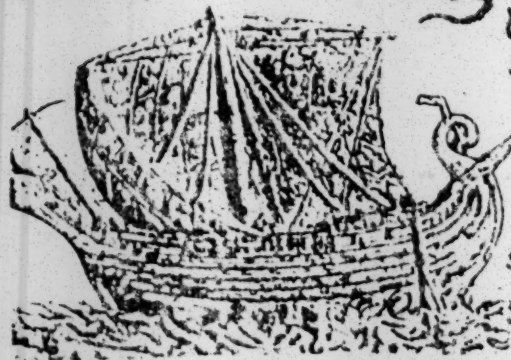
American Stonehenge

When British settlers came to New England in the 1600's they found many old unmortared stone structures like this one, abandoned long ago, and often pulled them apart to use the stone for their own farm buildings. Ancient gravestones and menhirs were also built into early New Englanders' walls, but scientists have found over 200 megalithic structures left today. This is one of the chambers at a place they call "Calendar Site 2" in South Woodstock, Vermont—sunlight falls directly in the door at Yule and it has inscriptions to the Sun God in Celtic and Phoenician. Knowing the true date was very important to



the Celts in both Europe and New England because they kept the same agricultural/religious holidays which are our Sabbats today, and they built many places like Stonehenge and "Calendar Site 2" to make this possible. Perhaps the greatest temple/observatory in New England was a place now called Mystery Hill, deep in the woods of New Hampshire. The center of Mystery Hill is a group of these structures built of stones weighing up to several tons, built into the earth close together with courtyards and paved walks in between. There is a great altar and there are several worn inscriptions to the gods. A wooden platform has been built where a stone one used to be—from here you can look around and see that the rest of the 20-acre site is criss-crossed with low unmortared stone walls with certain taller standing stones which touch the horizon through the forest beyond. These standing stones mark where the sun will set then rise on the Sabbats as well as subtle movements of the moon. If you descend into one of the cool dark chambers and sit and listen clearly, the immemorial grey stones seem to speak to you of another age.

The Great Celtic Navy



The Celtic folk who lived in Britain, France, Spain and Portugal were great seafarers until the Roman Empire conquered them. Their ships were like the one shown here, better than the Roman navy and certainly better than the little ships Columbus used to cross the Atlantic Ocean fifteen centuries later. Many tombstones in the Celtic lands say the men buried there were sailors and a few even call them pirates! In his book *War Commentaries* Caesar described how his fleet managed to capture and burn 220 of these ships in 55 B.C. in a great battle off the coast of France. Some historians say the Celtic mariners sailed a regular route across the Atlantic for hundreds of years before Caesar's victory and even a while after, trading European bronze for American copper, silver, furs and hides. These ships had leather sails and their timbers were bound with chain. They were unkeeled, steered with a stern oar and could tack into the wind. They were originally a Phoenician design.

Elephant Carvings in Iowa?

There are many great earthen mounds along the Mississippi River and its tributaries which might have

been built by ancient Indians.



But many remarkable things have been dug up from these mounds and none are more curious than the carved stone pipe bowls made as elephants, Ibises and other African animals. Bronze tools have been found too, and bronze could not have been made in America because there was no tin. Not only that, but a few priceless tablets have been found engraved with actual Egyptian hieroglyphics! This pipe bowl was dug up in Iowa almost a hundred years ago.

NEO-PAGANISM, A CURSE ON WITCHCRAFT

By Phoenix

There is something wrong with Witchcraft today: Neo-Paganism!

Throughout the United States there are many people who are claiming to be practicing Witches. Many have gone before the public professing to be priestesses and priests, yet their practices, social behavior and belief systems are so far removed from reality that they can hardly be related to tolerable social conduct, let alone the conduct of leaders of an ancient spiritual discipline.

Several years ago, when I was first searching for a serious group, I attended a gathering of 'Neo-Pagans.' Imagine a group of approximately one hundred people gathered in a public auditorium in California. Most were naked, many had been indulging in illegal narcotics. The presiding priestess began the ritual by casting a circle which she explained was 'elastic,' so all could feel free to come and go. The rite began with a few songs and chants but quickly degenerated into a party. At one point a couple were engaged in sexual intercourse in the hall way.

Recently in New England a Neo-Pagan seminar was held. This was open to the public and featured many speakers as well as rituals which all could participate in. During one such ritual, the participants disrobed and began smearing themselves with mud while barking like dogs.

What is happening today? This is not Witchcraft, and in no way should be considered as such. This behavior is much more reminiscent of the sixties flower children rebellion. Unfortunately these types of actions are very widespread throughout the 'Wiccan Community.' The sad thing about this is the proponents of these activities continue to go before the public as representatives of Wicca.

Lets consider some of the beliefs and practices of these people; for example, initiation. Throughout all magickal or religious societies initiation has always entailed a cycle of life and death, in a spiritual sense. The initiates' old personality dies during the ritual, and is reborn spiritually after an intense ordeal. In order for this to make the impression upon the candidate, which it should, initiation must be conducted by a competent-initiated High Priestess and or High Priest. Within the Neo-Pagan movement, however, the idea of 'self initiation' has become popular. This is virtually an impossibility. There is no way that anyone can create the necessary circumstances required to cause this spiritual transition within oneself. You must have assistance from those who have had training, and have gone through the experience themselves.

The Neo-Pagan styled Witch is of the opinion that he can claim to be whatever he likes, conducting himself in anyway he desires without accepting responsibility for his actions. Neo-Pagans use Wicca as an excuse to avoid reality by pretending to be esoteric or spiritually elevated. How many of these people have taken the time to study the various aspects of Wicca, magick or the occult? How many Neo-Pagans even know who Danu is; what color of a candle would be burned for persuasion; or which chakra governs logical thought? This is all basic information which any Witch should know, but it requires work to learn these things. It is for this reason that self-initiation is popular. Self initiation requires no work, no training and no discipline.

Within Neo-Paganism anyone can claim to be a Priestess or Priest and then proceed to make up their own 'tradition.' This has resulted in such bizarre behavior as groups using jack-knives as Athames, drawing down the moon over the phone, and conducting menstration rituals.

The truly unfortunate thing about all this is that those of us who are seriously striving toward seeing Wicca become a recognized and respected religion are having to answer to the public for the actions of these misfit, Neo-Pagan Flower Children.



SELF-AWARENESS A NEW REALITY

In Wicca the crossroads is a place of spells. Center of the Cardinal directions, it is where ordinary laws no longer hold. The 1990's is such a place for Man. Willy-nilly, times incantation is cast over him and the primal powers unleashed which he must now negotiate. This spot is thick with destructive one-way culd-de-sacs; plus probably the added handicap of no turn-about beyond the half way point. These are times to reassess where we want to go lest we get where we really do not want to be, or cannot stay as human beings, or even merely stay alive as something less than men.

The ideological strife, no matter how rationalized by intellectual apologetics, flows from the same uncontrolled and immature drive to dominate, instead of excel. Seen in this light, conquest is a frustrated substitute for release of creativity. This also is a heritage of man and which alone can confer the needed conviction of individual importance.

Having that sense, men need no longer be the dupes of paranoid leaders; no longer be so easily psyched into accepting tyrannies or mobilized into mutual hatred, egged on by power seekers. At this juncture those who create in some way or who are lovers of life or nature, are in fact the only free people today. With the artists are the great jesters and the great seers'. With the lovers are the Saints, as often uncanonized as not.

The task is clear, there's to do, not to say. We are drowned enough in meaningless logorrheas today worshipping communication per se, and having forgotten completely that what is communicated is the point; it might be anything from a happy thought to the bubonic plague.

Teaching today, in all countries, under whatever ideology or persuasion, is for one prime (and wrong) purpose: to mould young people into effective tools of the reigning political, social, and spiritual establishments. That purpose is wrong because it uses people as means instead of recognizing that they are ends in and of themselves, which is what human

dignity is all about. The political, social, and spiritual establishments exist for human beings; not human beings for the establishments. This realization practiced by enough people is the way of lasting peace.

The best way to begin that new world of happiness, instead of the world of misery that now exists, is to begin to realize independent and self-reliant, non-conditioned thinking. Let us begin to be ourselves and become our own best hope. For without affectionate confidence and enthusiasm from some source, there is little development of human growth and insight. Only then will the 1990's mark a sizable-evolutionary mutation to the truly human. A small step for each, that will be a giant leap in the principle negotiation of deep change in human consciousness. The signs of which are already on the horizon.

Self-awareness and expanded consciousness are the only way to make a new reality.

By Jeffrey B. Wright PH. D.



WICCAN/PAGAN PUBLICATIONS

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS, quarterly newspaper, Wicca/Pagan oriented. Circle, P.O. Box 219, Mt Horeb, WI 53572

COUNCIL OF MAGICKAL ARTS, quarterly journal, Wiccan/Pagan related. CMA, 5920 Bissonnet #113, Houston, TX 77081

HARVEST, on Sabbats (8 issues), Wiccan/Pagan oriented. Harvest, P.O. Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01710

OF LIKE MIND, occasional-journal, Feminist/Pagan related. Of Like Mind, P.O. Box 6021, Madison, WI 53716

MAGICKAL UNICORN MESSENGER, quarterly newsletter, Wiccan oriented. Temple Of Wicca, P.O. Box 1302, Findlay, OH 45839

SPIRIT WITHIN NEWS, occasional newsletter, Wicca/Pagan articles from a group of inmates in Maine. The Coven Of The Dawn, c/o Re. Wayne E. Gustafson, Box A, Thomaston, ME 04861

THUNDERBOW, monthly newsletter from Church of Seven Arrows. Thunderbow, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033

THE UNICORN, on Sabbats (8 issues), newsletter from the Rowan Tree. The Unicorn, Box 8814, Mpls., MN 55408

GATHERINGS & SEMINARS**DECEMBER**

DECEMBER 22: A YULE FESTIVAL, Our Lady Of Enchantment, presents their annual Yule celebration, ritual and feast. Contact Sabrina, 880-7237 or P.O. Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 1: FOREVER FORESTS TREE PLANTING. This annual event is for the entire family, special children's tree planting. Contact: Forever Forests, Box 212, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

JANUARY 1985

JANUARY 11-13, 1985: ESOTERICON II, a magickal science fiction and fantasy convention in New York. Contact Catherine Hutschnecker, Box 329, Little Ferry, NJ 07643

* * * * *



SUN KING

The silver sprinkling of bells
Rides high into the night,
The heralding of visitors
who are light of spirit.

They come to sit about the Yule log-
to laugh until the
Morning winks His golden eyes.

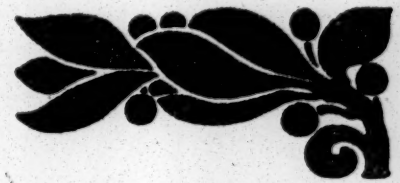
The snow falls
like great, flurried puffs
in the silence of the
crystalline aires-
And it pleases us to witness
its clean, bitter beauty.

We see the Lord in the snow
Who awaits the Sun King's birth
As He, too, draws near the fire-
we pass our gifts around
and drink the deep, red wine.

How good to sit with friends
and gaze into the fire,
it's warmth alighting our hearts
as we sing.

And we will bless the morning rays
for the Sun is new again,
To grow into His manhood that
He may wed Her at midsummer.

by Donna Lyon Rhose



LOVE & SYMPATHY

I remember all the things you ever said to me
All of them were wonderous words of
Love and Sympathy.

Phrases of affection, sentences that sign
Those that gave me comfort, encouragement,
And prid.

Yes, I remember too, your generous
Forgiveness
When I brought hurt to you.

And though I can not find the words
I want to say.

I do love and adore you
GODDESS
Each moment of the day

By Jeffrey B. Wright



THE MIND OF THE MAGICIAN

All of Magick is one,
Yet it encompasses many.

Bit all none,
Yet to you, 'one' should be plenty.

Magick is really all of life,
Brought about with athame knife.

Glowing candle of white light,
Begin your circle, left to right.

Knowing that there is no Hell,
Reverse your circle just as well.

Magick is Magick I say to you,
Know it when 'you' prove to 'you.'

So just as Sun and Moon do rise,
The mind is made of pure surprise.

Come some darkened-lonesome night,
Your candle's glow will prove me right.

By Charles H. Radziewicz



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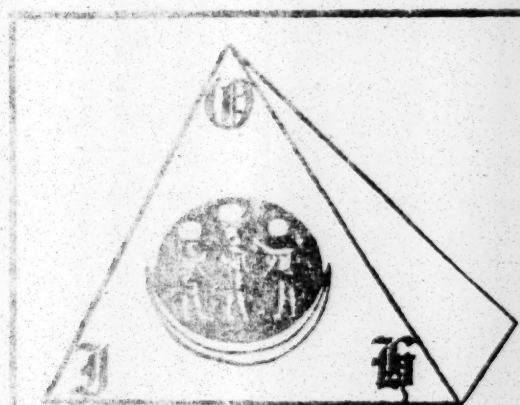
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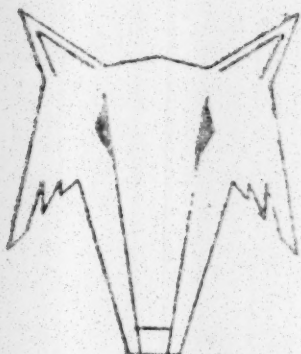


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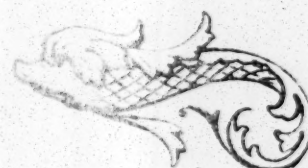
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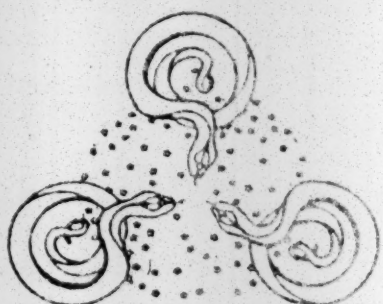
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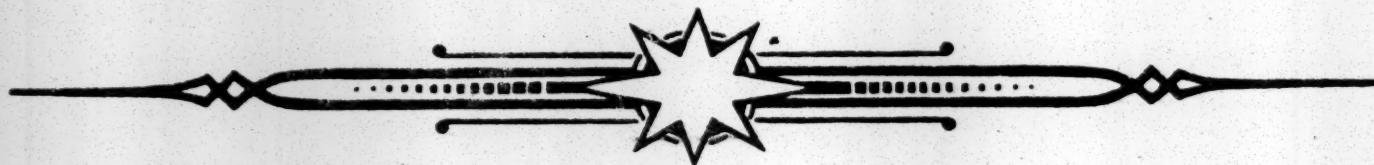
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